Recommendations on Trade Margins

1420. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to refer to the answer to the Unstarred Question No. 1207 given in the Rajya Sabha on 21st May, 1990 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that increase in Trade Margins was allowed by his Ministry based on the recommendations made by the Committee constituted by his department;

(b) if so, what was the constitution of the Committee, what were the recommendations of the committee and when did it submit its recommendations;

(c) what was the nature of data collected from trade;

(d) what is the justification and elements based on which trade commission was increased;

(e) whether it is a fact that minimum increase in prices of medicines has been 35% and maximum increase by 400%; and

(f) what are the names of medicines where price increase is more than 50% after the announcement of DPCO 1987?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) to (d) The Trade Margin, under DPCO 1987 has been increased in the light of recommendations made by the Committee constituted for the purpose under the Chairmanship of Chairman BICP with the following composition:

1. Chairman, BICP	Chairman
2. Commissioner, Food and Drugs Admn. Govt. of Gujarat .	Member
3. Joint Secretary (PI), Deptt. of Chemicals and Petro-chemicals	Member

The increase was necessary because of increased MAPE available to the Industry under DPCO, 1987. The aforesaid Committee had meetings with the representations of IDMA, OPPI and AIOC&D and based on the recommendations contained in the minutes of the meeting held by the Committee in December, 1987, the Trade Margin was increased in the March, 1988.

(e) and (f) No such exercise has been undertaken by the Department. However, the prices of controlled medicines are fixed in accordance with the provisions contained under DPCO, 1987.

Scheme for underground storage of natural gas

1421. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have worked out a scheme for the underground storage of natural gas in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY) : (a) and (b) Schemes for underground storage of associated natural gas in Eastern Region and Southern Region are under examination of ONGC.